spectrum. Ministry of Defence is consulted regarding their spectrum usage and vacation in GSM bands. A Group of Ministers (GOM) has also been constituted by the Government for "vacation of spectrum and raising resources for the purposes."

(d) to (f) A Committee in DoT has been constituted to recommend the revision of subscriber based spectrum allocation criteria for mobile services. The matter is *sub-judice* before Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT).

Review of spectrum issues

1040. SHRMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister is seriously considering the issue of review of spectrum issues and has decided to review progress on the vacation of spectrum by the defence services for use by telecom operators, as well as on additional allocation to existing operators;

(b) if so, whether Prime Minister has received communication from Chairman Bharti Airtel and Reliance communication Ltd. On 6th November on allocation of spectrum;

(c) whether Prime Minister had given instruction during the review meeting for allocation of spectrum; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Prime Minister and the final decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Government is pursuing the vacation/release of spectrum from Defence services for unimpeded growth of public mobile telecom services. A Group of Ministers (GOM) has been set up on "vacation of spectrum and raising resources for the purposes".

(b) A D.O. letter no nil dated 6.11.07 addressed by the Chairman, Reliance Communications Limited to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, has been received. As regards receipt by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 6th November of communications from Chairman, Bharti Airtel, it is intimated that no such communication has been received.

(c) and (d) A Committee has been set up to recommend the revision of subscriber based criteria for allotment of 2G spectrum. However, the matter is *sub-judice* in Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT).

Tax from telecom service providers

1041. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the telecom service providers have to pay upto 30 per cent of their revenues in taxes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has any plans to cut down the taxes in telecom sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Department of Telecommunication charges only the (i) License Fee (including 5% Universal Access Levy) varying from 6% to 10% depending on the category of Service Area and (ii) the Spectrum Charges for the use of the spectrum allotted varying from 2% to 4% from the service providers. Other taxes such as Service Tax, Corporate Tax, Excise duties etc. are paid by the telecom service providers in terms of the orders notified on the subject by the Government from time to time.

(c) Committee constituted to study the present structure of taxes and levies applicable in the Telecom Sector has submitted its report and the same is under examination.

NLCPR Projects

1042. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount sought for by each N-E State under NLCPR projects during the years 2005-06 and 2006-07 and the amount sanctioned against each State during these years;

(b) the names of the projects proposed by the State Government of Tripura during 2005-06 and 2006-07 along with the amount and the names of those accepted by the department;

(c) the details of the funds placed to the State Government of Tripura; and

(d) the reasons where the funds are not released against the accepted projects?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The State Governments of North Eastern Region submit Lists of Prioritised Projects for funding under Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) Scheme. The total amount sought for by each North Eastern State for funding under the scheme through their 2005-06 and 2006-07 Priority Lists of projects and the amount sanctioned against each State during these years is given at the Statement-I. (*See below*)

(b) The names of the projects proposed by the State Government of Tripura during 2005-06 and 2006-07 along with the amount, the names of those retained for techno-economic examination/sanctioned are given at Statement-II. (*See below*)

(c) Rs. 111.55 crore were released under NLCPR Scheme to the State Goverment of Tripura during 2005-06 and Rs. 98:99 crores during 2006-07 for the projects including for those sanctioned in these years.

(d) There is no project from the 2005-06 and 2006-07 Priority Lists which has been sanctioned under NLCPR but for which funds have not been released.